

per Chamber Report

Natalie Strong, Deputy Press Director

TOP STORY

Legislative Day 6: Georgia State Senate Celebrates Tourism Day at the Capitol

By Jennifer Kitt

ism Day. Sen. Chip Pearson (R- Sen. Fort. Dawsonville) presented a resolution honoring retired Deputy Commis- Sen. Renee Unterman (R-Buford) as Tourism Day.



Sen. Pearson announces Tourism Day at the Capitol

"Tourism brings jobs to the state, and that's the bottom line after all," said Gatlin. Representatives from the tourism industry visited the capitol and displayed their products in the Senate Rotunda. Currently the tourism industry brings in \$34 billion to the state and 240,000 jobs.

Sen. Vincent Fort (D-Atlanta) gave a passionate statement about predatory lending and foreclosures. The senator encouraged other members to take responsibility for negative loans and the foreclosure crisis.

"When our citizens are at risk with CHAMBER (Jan. 26, 2010) - The people with guns in the street we State Senate reconvened for the 6th don't say 'let's have Washington day of session and welcomed a vari- take care of it,' we take care of it. ety of representatives from the tour- When a person is robbed with a pen ism industry to the capitol for Tour- and paper the same rules apply," said

sioner for Tourism and Marketing has been a leader in the prevention of Charlie Gatlin, and declaring Jan. 26 crimes against women and children. Most recently, she has been working to stop child prostitution in the state

of Georgia. Atlanta currently ranks in the top 14 cities with child prostitution.

Sen. Unterman also recognized the ARC Georgia, an organization that develops grams, funding and public policy for people

with developmental disabilities. Peter Barns, the National Chief Executive Officer for ARC was also in attendance.

Sen. Jim Butterworth (R- Cornelia) and Sen. John Douglas (R-Social Circle) recognized members of the Super Sabre Society (For more information, see page 2).

П

Sen. Butterworth Honors Super Sabre Society

By Katie Wright

CAPITOL (Jan. 26, 2010) – Today, State Sen. Jim Butterworth (R-Clarkesville) and the entire Georgia Senate adopted Senate Resolution 853 to recognize and commend the Super Sabre Society, a group of United States Air force (USAF) pilots that flew the USAF F-100 fighter-bomber aircraft.

"We are among heroes," said Sen. Butterworth. "These brave, courageous men risked their lives for their country and we will always be grateful for and humbled by their sacrifice."

The F-100 is nicknamed the "Hun." Manufactured in the early 1950s, it was the first United States fighter plane to achieve and sustain supersonic speed in straight and level flight. These planes were instrumental in the Vietnam War and in preparing for the nuclear threat of that time. The plane was last officially flown with the Air National Guard in 1979.



Sen. Jim Butterworth (R-Clarkesville) welcomes Super Sabre Society

Members of the society travelled from every corner of Georgia to be recognized at the State Capitol. They have flown in World War II, the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam War. They were recognized for embodying the spirit of service and willingness to find meaning in something greater than themselves.

Trinity Broadcasting Network Records Messages of Hope For Haiti



By Meredith Rich

CAPITOL (Jan. 26, 2010) – Approximately 30 Senators and Representatives participated in Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN)'s recording of inspirational messages for the citizens affected by the earthquake in Haiti. Legislators gathered in the North Wing of the Capitol to give words of encouragement and optimism to the victims of Haiti. The recordings will air on the network, which is broadcast around the country.

TBN and its affiliates are traveling across the country to produce the messages. The recordings will air on the radio, online and on television. TBN took on this project to show Haitians that people are continuing to support and pray for their country.

TBN has been the world's largest religious network and America's most watched faith channel for 37 years. TBN offers 24 hours of commercial-free, inspirational programming that appeal to people in a wide variety of denominations.

Page 2 UPPER CHAMBER REPORT

Economic Development Panel explores what it will take to Grow Georgia's Job Climate

By Kallarin Richards

Capitol (Jan. 26, 2010) – The Senate and House Eco- University, highlighted the effect that the downturn in nomic Development committees gathered at the State construction has had on jobs. Georgia's heavy expo-Capitol for their first joint meeting of the session to sure in the construction and real estate sector is a jobs in Georgia. Co-chaired by state Sen. Chip Pear- states in job loss. Since the state's construction peak son (R-Dawsonville) and Rep. Ron Stephens (R- in March 2007, Georgia has shed nearly 60,000 jobs,

examining proposals to promote small business and job creation.

"Job creation is at the forefront of repairing our local and national economy. Today's hearing marks a crucial first-step to creating an atmosphere that encourages job growth in Georgia," said Sen. Pearson. "A recurring rec-

ommendation from all of our speakers was to reduce housing market intelligence firm. iobs."

spite Congress passing the biggest spending bill in 50 percent across the metro area. history last February, jobs continue to crumble. "This is graphic evidence that the stimulus package is part Georgia's ports are another key area for job and ecoof the problem," he said.

repealing minimum wage laws, reducing business years. regulations and encouraging Georgia congressmen to introduce a bill that repeals the 16th Amendment, Throughout the Legislative Session, the Senate and this is an ambitious idea, Pretcher stressed the imporgrowth in Georgia's job sector. tance of ensuring that the money that is made in Georgia stays in Georgia.

Roger Tutterow, professor of economics at Mercer hear from several economic experts on how to grow large part of why the state ranks among the top ten Savannah), the committees were joined by the Special or about 26 percent of its employment in that indus-Committee on Small Business Development and Job try. In order to move forward, Tutterow encouraged Creation, a new standing House committee devoted to lawmakers to consider broad-based tax reform that is

> comprehensive, rather than focused on just one sector.

Because of the housing industry's significant impact on Georgia jobs, the committees got an overall look at metro Atlanta's housing market from Eugene James, director of Metrostudy's Atlanta region which is a leading

According to regulation on businesses in order to jumpstart the em- James, housing starts are down 86 percent from ployment sector. I firmly believe that taxation, litiga- 2007. Over the past three years, Georgia has virtually tion and regulation are the three biggest killers of stopped building homes. This has helped absorb the vast inventory that pervaded the state when the housing market began to slump. However, the number of The committees heard from experts on the economy, vacant lots continues to be a problem throughout the housing, and Georgia's ports. Economist Robert Atlanta market, which will continue to put pressure Pretcher, author of the 2002 book Conquer the Crash on banks, according to James. He also noted that in that predicted the current debt crisis, noted that de- the best case scenario, the value of lots has declined

nomic growth. Michael Toma, professor of economics at Atlantic Armstrong State University, stressed He warned that despite popular predictions of ex- the importance of deepening the Savannah harbor in pected growth in the middle of the year, recovery will order to retain Georgia's competitive edge, as well as be much slower, especially if stocks begin to decline transportation projects that allow cargo to move again. Pretcher encouraged the committees to con-quickly and efficiently through the area. Losing that sider removing impediments to job creation, such as market share could set the state back another five

which allows Congress to levy an income tax without House Economic Development committees will conapportioning it among the states. While he admitted tinue discussing ways the legislature can encourage

Legislative Process Dates

Important Dates in the Legislative Process

Introduction - Last day to file and/or 1st Read in Senate.

- 30 th day last day to introduce General Senate bills and resolutions (even year). [Rule 3-1.2 (b)]
- 30 th day last day to accept General House bills and resolutions. [Rule 3-1.2 (b)]
- 39th day last day to introduce General Senate bills and resolutions (odd year). [Rule 3-1.2 (b)]
- *Note: Senate bills and resolutions must be filed with the Secretary before 4:00 p.m. to be 1st read on the next legislative day.

Deadlines for passage in current year

Committee Report Deadlines - Last day to read report. Report submitted to Secretary by convening.

- 28th day General Senate bills and resolutions.
- 38th day Local Senate bills and resolutions.
- 38th day General House bills and resolutions.
- 40th day Local House bills and resolutions.

Calendar Management

Calendar in numerical order after 2nd reading of legislation; days 1-5. [Rule 4-2.10 (a)]

Rules Committee sets the calendar for days 6 - 40. [Rule 4-2.10 (b)]

General Senate Bills and Resolutions

- 26th day File with Secretary of the Senate. [Rule 3-1.2 (a)]
- 27th day 1st Reading and referral to committee. [Rule 3-1.2 (b)]
- 28th day Committee report read upon convening. (A recommitted bill already 2nd read report day 29.)
- 29th day 2nd Reading. [Rule 4-2.6]
- 30th day Passage [Rule 4-2.10 (a)] and immediate transmittal to House. [Rule 4-2.14]

Local Senate Bills and Resolutions

- 35th day File with Secretary of the Senate. [3-1.2 (a)]
- 36th day 1st Reading and referral to committee. (Cannot pass for 2 days.) [Rule 4-2.4 (c)]
- 38th day Favorable report by committee, passage and immediate transmittal to the House. [Rule 4-2.14]
- 39th day 2nd Reading in House.
- 40th day Favorable report and passage in House.

General House Bills and Resolutions

- 30th day Transmitted from House and received by Secretary.
- 31st day 1st Reading and referral to committee. [Rule 3-1.2 (b)]
- 38th day Favorable report upon convening and 2nd reading. (Applies to days 36 38) [Rule 4-2.6]
- **39th day -** Passage. [Rule 4-2.10 (a)]
- 40th day Passage of bills or resolutions tabled day 39; removed from the table on day 40. [Rule 4-2.10 (a)]

Local House Bills and Resolutions

- 39th day 1st Reading and referral to committee.
- 40th day Favorable report by committee and passage.
- * Note: On the 30th day and on the last three days of session, bills and resolutions needing action from the House are automatically immediately transmitted. [Rule 4-2.14]
- 40th day Passage of bills or resolutions tabled day 39; removed from the table on day 40. [Rule 4-2.10 (a)]